REMARKS/ARGUMENTS:

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application; claims 1-5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 17 and 18 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled and no new claims have been added. Consideration of the amended claims and the comments below is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) on the basis of US Patent 6,421,777 (Pierre-Louis). While Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's grounds of rejection and the Examiner's interpretation of Pierre-Louis, in the interests of expediting prosecution, Applicant has chosen to clarify the claims in a manner even more clearly distinguishing from Pierre-Louis.

Pierre-Louis discloses a server based system in which initially a client workstation is set up to remote boot from a network server which provides a boot image to the client (col. 5:46-67). Using a RIPL protocol, the client boots an environment provided by a boot image downloaded from the server and installs an operating system (col. 6:34-47).

"Once the install process is completed, during subsequent reboots, the client system still sends a boot request to the server. After a brief handshake with the server, the client continues the boot process from the operating system image on the local disk. What really happened was, the server switched the boot image when the client state is changed to "INSTALL COMPLETE". Subsequently, when the client reboots each time, it sends the boot request over the network. The server sends the boot image (different image) **which tells the client to boot from the local hard drive.** The boot process completes with the client machine booted up to the logon panel." Col. 6:59-7:3 (emphasis added). See also, for example, col. 7:4-20 and col. 9:31-38.

The present application teaches that each boot request from a client device results in the client booting from a target boot volume stored at the network storage device without downloading the target volume to local storage at the requesting client device. For example, see Applicant's specification at page 6, lines 14-21, page 9, lines 17-26, page 15, lines 6-11, and page 17, lines 19-24. Accordingly, claim 1 includes recitation of:

7

". . . responsive to each received boot request, selecting a target boot volume allocated to the requesting client device from a plurality of client-specific image copies stored at the network storage device; responsive to each received boot request, providing communicative access to the requesting one of the client devices to the selected target boot volume stored at said network storage device, whereby the client is operable to remotely boot over the network from the selected target boot volume without downloading the selected target boot volume to local storage at the requesting client device;"

Claim 9 includes recitation of:

". . . said server to receive boot requests from a client device broadcast on the network and responding to each boot request by providing remote access to the client-specific image copy stored in the network storage device allocated to the requesting client device to effect a remote boot operation by the requesting client device without downloading said client-specific image copy to local storage at the requesting client device;"

Claim 14 includes recitation of:

". . . said server including a communication component that receives the boot requests from the client components and in response to each boot request from a client component provides the requesting client component with remote access to the network storage component to effect a remote boot from the boot image copy allocated to the requesting client component without transferring the client-specific image copy to local storage at the requesting client component;"

Claims 1, 9 and 14 are thus clearly distinguished from and not anticipated by Pierre-Louis who fails to disclose each and every one of the limitations recited in each of those claims. Moreover, Pierre-Louis does not suggest the features set forth in claims 1, 9 and 14. The dependent claims are distinguished from and patentable over Pierre-Louis on the basis of arguments contained in previous responses, and which are maintained. All of claims 1-19 are thus believed to be in condition for allowance.
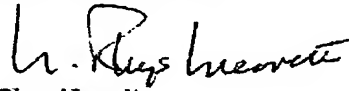
8

Application No. 10/035,377
Amndt. dated: October 06, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed: July 25, 2006

CONCLUSION.

Favorable consideration and early allowance of the pending claims are respectfully solicited. If there are any remaining issues that could be resolved by discussion, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at (425) 402-4638 would be appreciated.

Date: October 06, 2006
Hewlett-Packard Company
Intellectual Property Administration
PO Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

Respectfully submitted,

N. Rhys Merrett
Attorney for Applicant, Reg. No. 27,250

9